TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1998

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Nancy Marsden KD4ITX 268-3990
V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. ao146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

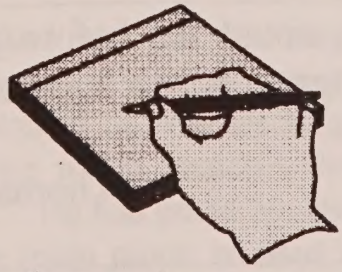
By the time you read this newsletter I hope Georges (that mean OLE storm) has subsided. Our condolences are extended to all that have lost loved ones as a result of this hurricane.

At the September 22 club meeting I appointed a team to serve on the Nomination Committee. This committee is made up of KF4IGK, Grant; KF4ZOK, Susan and KF4NKL, Roe. A new slate of officers and board members will be submitted at the October 27 meeting. At the November 24 meeting we will cast our ballot for the candidate(s) of our choice as provided by the Nomination Committee and those nominated from the floor on election night. In accordance with the by-laws the newly elected officers and board members will be installed at the December meeting.

Our club is fortunate to have so many to share with us your willingness to serve your club as an officer or board member and I ask you to volunteer to serve when the Nominating Committee calls on you.

I want to thank all of those who attended TARC's annual "POT LUCK" dinner. We had a good turn out and a wonderful evening. I think Alan, KC4UUX said it all when in words somewhat like this "I am saving up space for the delicious food come 'Pot Luck' night." To all the ladies and guys who prepared so many wonderful dishes, my thanks. There are many of us who are looking forward to our next Pot Luck Dinner.

Best of 73's.



Be at the November meeting to cast your ballot!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

OCT. 1 W8NVN BILL QUIN
OCT. 4 KF4AOW W. S. DAMPIER
OCT. 7 KC4UWK AL KOLLER
OCT. 9 KE4BBI PENNY POULIN
OCT. 11 KT4RG TIMOTHY HAYES
OCT. 13 AF4DP BERNIE FLANAGAN
OCT. 16 N4IPJ MIKE FINEMAN
OCT. 16 AC4WM MITCH MATHENY
OCT. 16 KB9LUW ERNEST JOHNSON
OCT. 16 KB4LUV SYLVIA JOHNSON
OCT. 16 W4LEW JOHN WALTERS
OCT. 18 N4MCZ ROD IWAN
OCT. 22 WR4FSU ROBERT STRAUGHN
OCT. 22 KE4MXG CARL LINEBAUGH
OCT. 23 KF4IGK GRANT HAHNE
OCT. 23 KE4FFA MONA SKIDMORE
OCT. 24 AC4JX DAVE CREASMAN
OCT. 25 K4KON BRUCE HOOVER
OCT. 26 N9FAB LORRAINE TENDICK
OCT. 28 KE4MXH MARILYN LINBAUGH
OCT. 29 KH6GH ART ZIPPLER
OCT. 29 KC4VVG WALT HART

When angry, count ten before you speak; when very angry, count a hundred.

Thomas Jefferson

ELEMENTARY - MY DEAR WATSON!

From 8/98 Propogator
By KD4VBI

If necessity if the Mother of Invention, then surely mechanical malfunction is the father of diagnostic logic!

The diagnosis of a mechanical or electrical problem can prove to be very perplexing. As an Amateur Radio Operator you should be aware of certain procedures to find the cliche in the program.

The usual first step is to look for the obvious causes such as: is it pluged in, a blown fuse, a burnt or broken wire, a discolored or smokey component, or anything else that looks out of the norm.

By deductive elimination we eventually arrive at the cause of the malfunction. Isn't it funny how it always turns out to be the last thing we check. hi hi

Last month my E-mail and my online access went on the firtz. Oh boy! Panic set in and away my mind did gallop. Holy Moley, I was sunk. I could hear my critics now if I didn't meet the DEADLINE. "Get a grip", I told myself. I started calling first this dude, then the company, and finally the manufacturer himself. Put on hold for upteen hours and telling to go online for help was helping me reach my boiling point mighty fast. Attitude change was needed - in the way a sailor needs the open sea to ease his worry.

I'm a hard-headed Taurean who takes defeat very badly, so all I could do was repeat over and over again, I can fix this...I can fix this...if I tinker with it, it will work! The first thing I did was to sit down; I turned off old Mr. Worry-wort, took a deep breath, closed my eyes and slowly exhaled. I next threw my fate to the karmic winds. I started looking at my problem much like a bean-counter hunts for a lost penny: Software--CHECK--OK; modem--CHECK--OK; computer--AOK. Humm!

Then it must be in Ole Ma Bell's stuff. I unplugged the 'puter and plugged in the phone. Phone's dead -- aha! What is my next step, me drewggies?

Elementary my dear Audiophiles! I had narrowed it down to only four possible causes. 1) they cut off my phone service. 2) the service line was broken. 3) the wire that goes to the computer was bad or broken. 4) just plain old dirty contacts in the jacks or in the connectors.

I went to the Parlor and retrieved the other phone (independent line) and plugged it into the phone jack on the wall. Dead also---hummm! I next sprayed some contact cleaner into the jack and onto the phones wire connector. I plugged it in; say hallelujah, it worked. I cleaned all the connectors, hooked the 'puter back up, and was up and running and on-line within 10 minutes. All it took was a bit of detective work, a bit of logic and a squirt of contact cleaner. The cost, about a penny. If I had called the computer people to check it out, they would have charged me a fee just to tell me that there was nothing wrong with this machine. Ma Bell would have charged me a $40 service call to do the same thing I did for free.

The moral of the story: Do the easy cheap stuff first. Don't be afraid to look for the cause of the problem. You just might be lucky enough to be able to fix the problem and save some cash in the process.

DRUNKEN DRIVING AND CB RADIO
By John Smenner, N4DUI
From 10/98 Worldradio

Over the years my call sign has brought on many comments both on and off the air. One day while I was pumping some gas at our local convenience store, I noticed the lady attendant looking at me with a puzzled look on her fact. When I went inside to pay for the gas she looked at me and said, "I guess you are proud of yourself for being arrested for drunken driving!"

I replied, "I don't even drink. What are you talking about?" She said, "Well, your license plate says that you have been in jail 4 times for DUI ("in"4DUI). I gave her a brief explanation of Amateur Radio and told her N4DUI was my call sign. She said, "Yeah, I understand now. My nephew has one of those CB radios and his call sign is the "Georgia Dog."

Sometimes it just doesn't pay to get up!

INSIDE AMATEUR RADIO
NECESSITY IS
By Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ
From 10/98 Worldradio

The following story has been excerpted from Inside Amateur Radio, *by the late Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ. The book can be purchased from Worldradio Books, P.O.Box 189490, Sacremento, CA 95818. Price is $9.00 plus $2.00 shipping and handling. CA residents please add 70 cents sales tax.*

John Carr, W2NQ, thought he'd heard every crazy idea any Ham had ever dreamed up. That is, until the day he hears WB6NOA's call on the air requesting a report.

"I answered him and gave my location as Salem, Oregon. He came back with great surprise and explained his name was Gordon West. He was teaching a class in Amateur Radio in Southern California. All members were listening.

"When I asked why he was surprised to make contact with me, it was my turn to be surprised. Gordon explained he was teaching the theory of using a device which 'matches the transmitter to the anetnna." He had asked his class which metal object in the room might be used for an antenna.

One student asked, 'What about this metal folding chair I'm sitting on?' It seemed to be a big joke.

"Gordon, a good sport, proceeded to put the chair on a table, and attached it to the matching device and the transmitter. The class waited expectantly to see it perform, so Gordon gave a call with his microphone. I imagine he felt rather foolish until he heard my call answering his.

"And that's not all. I then heard a station in Antarctica calling me, wanting to send a message to my area. I asked him if he had been able to hear Gordon. Oh yes. So the two of them made contact. Another came on from Alaska, making it a three-way.

"Now I've heard everything. A metal chair for an antenna!"

SAREX WON'T FLY ON JOHN GLENN SHUTTLE

From HAPPENINGS
9/98 QST

NASA has scuttled plans to include the Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) payload aboard STS-95 this fall.

That's the flight that will carry US Senator and astronaut John Glenn into space. Five schools, four in the US and one in Japan, had been tentatively lined up for Amateur Radio schedules to talk with the shuttle crew during the highly publicized October mission. Glenn, the first US astronaut to orbit Earth, will be 77 when he returns to space later this year. NASA expressed regret at having to drop the educational SAREX payload.

Two hams - US Astronatu Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY and European Space Agency astronaut Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, of Spain -- will be among the international crew aboard STS-95.

We're really disappointed," said ARRL Educational Activities Department Manager and SAREX Working Group Member Rosalie White, WA1STO. The Glenn flight had generated a good deal of enthusiasm within the ham radio community. White said US schools that had been on the list for STS-95 now will be first in line for consideration on future missions, such as STS-93 early next year, and the Intertional Space Station.

STS-93 Commander Eileen Collins, KD5EDS, is said to be enthusiastic about the possibility of including SAREX on her flight, but future shutle missions are heavily loaded with activities involving construction of the ISS. Amateur Radio also is an official payload aboard the ISS.

FCC UPHOLDS INITIAL DECISION TO DENY KV4FZ RENEWAL

Another step in the KV4FZ legal saga: The FCC has upheld the supplemental initial decision of an administrative law judge to deny the application of Herbert L Schoenbohn, KV4FZ, to renew his Amateur Radio licenses. ALJ Edward Luton had found that Schoenbohm of Kingshill, Virgin Islands, had "engaged in misrepresentation and lacked candor" in testifying about his felony telephone toll fraud conviction and his solicitation of *ex parte* presentations. Schoenbohm was convicted in federal court of fraudently using a counterfeit access device to obtain long-distance telephone service. The FCC also said his behavior, in combination with his fraud conviction, justified nonrenewal of his ham ticket.

Shoenbohm has maintained that the FCC should renew his license because his conviction was several years ago, his sentance light, and he's had a spotless record and been fully rehabilitated. The FCC disagreed, however, saying that Schoenbohm "has not demonstrated that he possesses the basic character traits of truthfulness and reliability that are essential to licenseeship."

Schoenbohn's license expired in 1995, and his call sign no longer appears in the FCC database. However, he has been allowed to continue operating as KV4FZ until his appeals are exhausted.

MFJ-1026 TO THE RESCUE

From 10/98 QST
By Mike Flicinski, K2UXE

I read the MFJ-1026 Deluxe Noise Canceling Signal Enhancer product review by Paul Danzer, N1II, with considerable interest as I had purchased an MFJ-1026 several months earlier to deal with a very high line noise at my location.

I would like to add emphasis to Paul's review by stating that if one is experiencing receiving difficulties because of local power-line noise, the signal-to-noise improvement achieved by using the MFJ-1026 can be quite significant.

I was plagued with a power-line noise problem that resulted in a constant buzzing noise registering more than 20 dB over S9 on 80 meters, somewhat less on 40 meters. I found that by using a vertical antenna (a ground-mounted Hustler 4BTV) as a noise antenna along with my inverted V main antenna, I was able to lower the noise to an S4-S5 level! Similar results were obtained on 40 meters. This improvement is indeed significant and enabled me to join the Boatanchor gang on 3.579 Mhz using a receiver not equipped with a noise blanker. Even when using modern gear with noise blanking, I found that the degradation in selectivity with the noise blanker operating in a high-noise environment made copy unpleasant. CW signals had "hash" on the tone caused by the high noise level. Cancelling noise before the receiver input is significantly better, a point MFJ makes in their literature.

I found that even though the MFJ-1026 is capable of many interesting signal manipulations, as pointed out well by N1II, the unit is worth its cost (to me) to solve the single problem of line noise alone!

By working with my local power company, the power-line noise problem was eventually fixed, but in the interim months, the MFJ-1026 made 80 meters completely usable, even with QRP signals. Now to explore its other capabilities!

JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER IS JI1KIT

Japan's new Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, is an Amateur Radio operator, JI1KIT. Obuchi, the former foreign minister and head of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, was elected in a special parliamentary session on July 30.

Obuchi is a member of the JARL, which describes him as "an enthusiast for amateur radio." Obuchi, 61, now faces the task of wresting Japan from the grip of its worst recession since World War II.

LEDS AS POWER DETECTORS?

From 10/98 QST Hints & Kinks

Using a light bulb and pickup loop to sense RF, as in the lead article of the May 1998 Hints and Kinks, is time honored. If memory serves, it appears in the 1935 *Radio Amateur's Handbook.*

The low-tech incandescent lamps used then have one great advantage over the modern LEDs. They are resistive; they cannot produce harmonics. By contrast, an LED is a fast-switching diode. When you apply RF to an LED, you get light, heat and harmonics!

So, it's not a good idea to operate an LED with RF in the output stage of a transmitter, or anywhere in a transmitter's antenna system. A far better choice as an RF indicator remains the venerable incadescent lamp. *David M. Barton, AF6S*

(continued on page 7)

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike Abell W4EPU

Sometimes during the evenings when there is nothing better to do, Clara and I pass the time by taking turns quoting famous sayings while the other one guesses who said them.

We will share some of the quotes here and hope you will play the guessing game with us. The answers appear below in a different order.

QUESTIONS

1. "It's only a supplement. Now they are calling it a drug."

2. "If I get drafted, I'll run."

3. "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn."

4. "One small step for man. One giant leap for mankind."

5. "When God wants to play through - You let him."

6. "Give me liberty or give me death.,"

7. "I'm not a crook."

8. "Lemme tellya what."

9. "I'm the greatest."

10. "Play it again Sam."

11. "Old soldiers never die. They just fade away."

12. "The buck stops here."

13. "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

14. "Read my lips."

15. "Hey, we've got a problem here."

16. "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

17. This is not a quote. It's a question. Who pounded his shoe on the table in an attempt to disrupt the proceedings of the United Nations.

ANSWERS

A. John F. Kennedy, in his inaugural address.

B. Jack Swigert, Apollo 13 Command Moduel pilot. (The popular version substitutres "Houston" for "Hey")

C. Patrick Henry, at the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

D. Neil Armstrong, on the moon.

E. Humphrey Bogart, in the movie "Casablanca",

F. Nikita Khrushchev.

G. Dwight Eisenhower, when asked if he would run for President.

H. Mark McGwire.

I. Harry Truman.

J. General Douglas MacArthur.

K. Lee Trevino, after being struck by lightening on the golf course.

L. Richard Nixon

M. Bud Hughes.

N. Clark Gable, in "Gone with the Wind."

O. Mohammed Ali, when he became the heavy weight champion boxer.

P. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Q. George Bush, when he said "No more taxes".

SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Nancy KD4ITX

The meeting format was quite enjoyable. It was TARC's annual "Pot-Luck" dinner. Fifty-four members and guests enjoyed some very delicious food as well as good fellowship. Thanks to all the good cooks for a most enjoyable evening.

Roe, KF4NKI, Grant, KF4IGK and Susan, KF4ZOK were asked to be the nominating committee for the upcoming election,

Also, the delayed Fourth of July fireworks went off without a hitch. Thanks to Joe/KD4UZS, Pike/W4EPU, Dan/KE4MWY, Jimmy/KF4ZOL, Warren/AF4EA, Ozzie/N4SCY, Chris/KF4NSX, and Alan KC4UUX. It was a learning experience for those of us who were up close and personal helping with the fire works.

TREASURERS REPORT

By Clyde Lee K4EOS

Balance Forward From 1997	$5356.73
Deposits Year to Date	3802.99
TOTAL INCOME	**9159.72**
Expenditures	3635.88
BALANCE AS AT 09/30/98	**5523.84**
FEMA Escrow	1669.38
BALANCE-CLUB FUNDS	**$3854.46**

(continued from page 5)

Comments from Zack Lau, W1VT:

David's concern is certainly valid, just like the concern over putting highly explosive liquids (such as gasoline) in automobiles. Most cars carry gasoline quite safely, however, and many radios safely use rectifying diodes as power detectors. In addition, the diodes are often placed in a particularly bad spot. That is, after the low-pass filter, so the SWR meter won't read the unfiltered harmonic energy that is reflected by the filter. This means the LPF can't reduce the harmonics.

Diodes *can* be used successfully as power detectors; it all depends on proper design and risk taking. If everything goes badly, you may have a disaster: Creating interference to some important service, such as the police department's crucial communications can be a real disaster.

Let's make a rough estimate of the harmonic level for the hint in May QST. A bright LED draws 10 mA at 2 V, or 20mW. (I realize there are lousy diodes as well as bright diodes that need 1/10 that much power.) There are two coupling paths - to and from the diode; this effectively doubles the LED power. Therefore, *total* emissions from the LED are:

2 x 10 x log(20 mW / 5) = -48 sB.

A rough guess puts the worst-case harmonic level 10 dB down from this total power level. This leaves the estimated harmonics at -58 dBc, plus any filtering from the LPF.

Similarly, a typical HF rig probably has a 30-dB coupler, so harmonics are 70 dB below the carrier.
Zack Lau, W1VT, ARRL Laboratory Engineer.

FOR SALE

ICOM 720A HF XCVR
GOOD WORKING CONDITION
$350.00

DARWIN, KS4BD
452-1776

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

TRICK OR TREAT!!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 244 (182 regular, 55 family, 7 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: KF4ZOK SUSAN HAHNE

RENEWALS:
KZ5FG GEORGE FLORES
N4KHU DAVE ROBERTS
AC4KU AL SANFORD
KD4ZAH JEWELL SANFORD
W4LAC JASON RUDISILL
KE4MXJ PEDRO LORENZI
KE4YQF MARY LORENZI
K04NQ FRENCHY POULIN
KE4BBI PENNY POULIN
W8NVN BILL QUIN
WB4PXO RON MORGAN
W2STS JESS LEGRAND
KD4TLS BEN McMAHAN
KC4UUX ALAN MARSDEN
KF4NSX CHRIS MARSDEN
KF4LUA GWEN COLVIN
KD4ITX NANCY MARSDEN
KF4DTC ABBIE MARSDEN
KC4VMP JIM CLARK
KC4VMQ DONNA CLARK
KA4VYH BILL YOUNG
K4ZZZ CHRIS BROWNING

HAMFESTS:

OCT. 4	MAITLAND
OCT. 10/11	TAMPA
OCT. 17	STARKE
OCT.17/18	W.PALM BEACH
NOV. 7	SORRENTO
NOV. 14	TITUSVILLE
NOV. 14	PORT ST. LUCIE
NOV.21/22	TAMPA
DEC. 5	OKEECHOBEE
DEC. 5	OCALA
DEC.12	LAKE CITY